

# Ship Canal Water Quality Project Fact Sheet

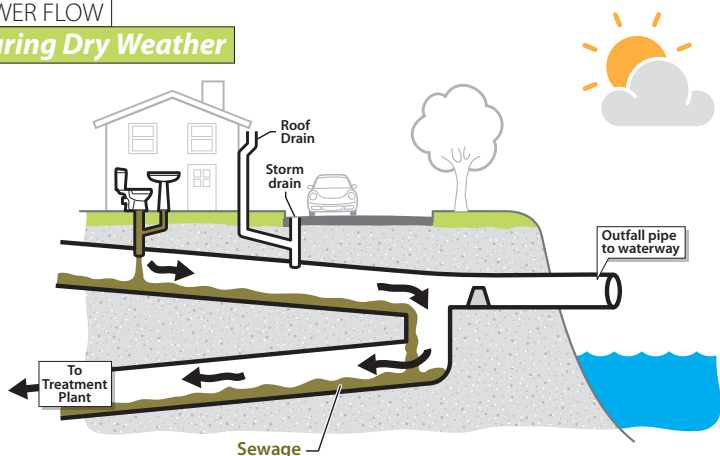
## Why is this project needed?

Sewage and stormwater from many older parts of the city, including Ballard, Fremont, North Queen Anne, and Wallingford, all funnel into one set of pipes to be cleaned and discharged at King County's treatment plant in Magnolia. In dry weather conditions, all sewage flows to the treatment plant. During wet weather conditions, however, polluted runoff can exceed the pipe's capacity and send a mixture of stormwater (about 90%) and some sewage into the nearest body of water. These combined sewer overflows or "CSOs" contain contaminants that could make people sick and harm fish, wildlife, and the environment.

State and federal law requires that we reduce these overflows to no more than one overflow per outfall per year on average.

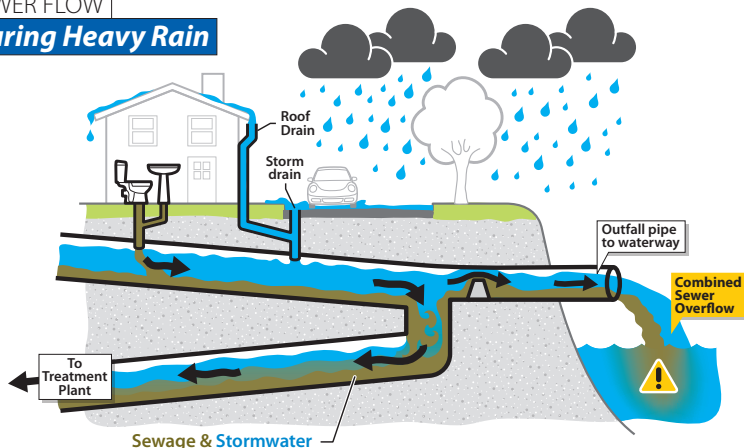
### SEWER FLOW

#### During Dry Weather



### SEWER FLOW

#### During Heavy Rain



## Project overview

Seattle Public Utilities and King County are working together to build an underground storage tunnel to reduce the amount of polluted water that spills into the Lake Washington Ship Canal from Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, and north Queen Anne.

The 2.7-mile, approximately 14-foot diameter tunnel will capture and temporarily hold more than 15 million gallons of stormwater mixed with some sewage that overflows during heavy rains. When the storm passes, flows will be sent to the existing West Point Wastewater Treatment Plant in Magnolia.

## Where will this project be located?



## How will this project improve water quality?

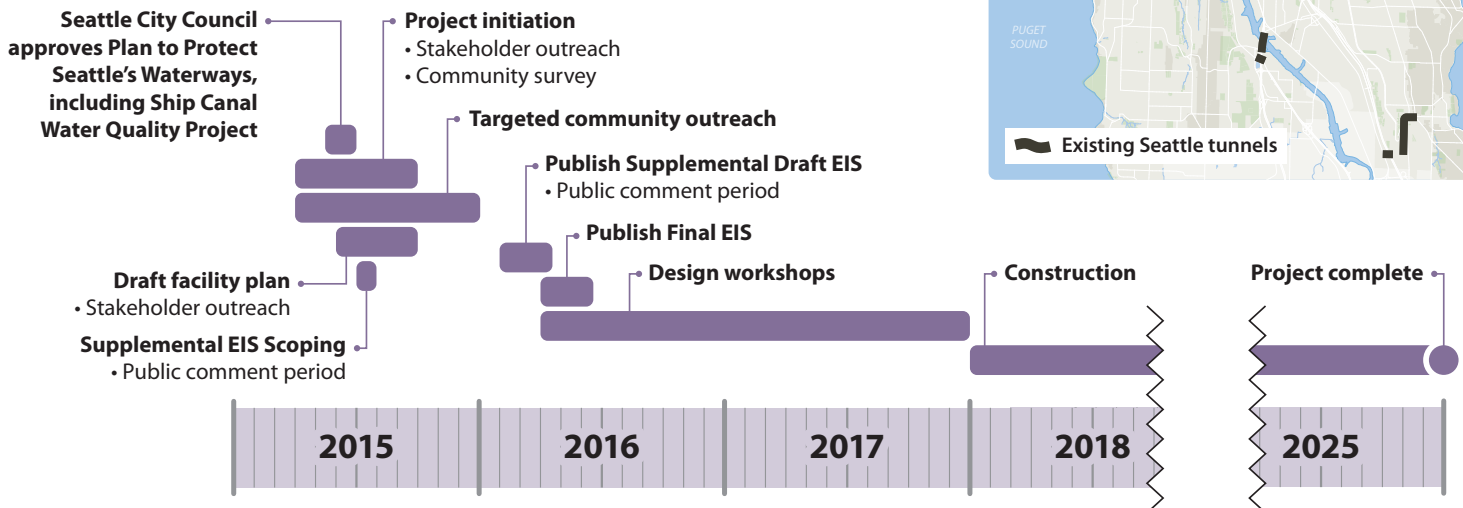
- This project will keep more than 50 million gallons of raw sewage and polluted runoff from overflowing into the Ship Canal, Salmon Bay, and Lake Union each year.
- It will also prevent nearly all of the 130 annual overflows that occur in Ballard, Fremont, and Wallingford.
- As a result, less pollution will end up in the Ship Canal each year.

## Why a tunnel?

Tunnels work! King County and SPU have built and operated tunnels carrying sewage and stormwater for decades. Tunnels require less maintenance to run, fewer disruptions during construction and operation, and less money and above ground facilities to build.



## Project schedule



## Stay in touch

*For questions or comments about this project*

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**Website:** [www.seattle.gov/util/ShipCanalProject](http://www.seattle.gov/util/ShipCanalProject)

*Sign up to receive project email updates*

<http://www.seattle.gov/lists/shipcanalproject.htm>

Seattle  
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King County

Protecting Seattle's Waterways

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